

of the United States in and to certain non-Federal land in Glennallen, Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I introduce legislation to aid an Alaska higher educational institution obtain title to property it no longer needs, and that the Federal Government clearly no longer wants. I rise to introduce legislation to clear the title to a 210-acre parcel in Glennallen, AK, so that the land can be put to more productive uses in the future.

Back in 1926 the Central Alaska Mission began operations in Glennallen. In 1954 it received a Federal land grant from Congress, modified in 1959, and received 210 acres in “downtown” Glennallen—the current site of the hospital and radio station and former site of the Alaska Bible College. In 1961 it actually opened the Bible College on 80 acres of the tract, the site apparently having about 64 separate buildings erected on it. The 1959 land grant, like many in first the Territory of Alaska and later the State of Alaska, had a clause that should the property no longer be used for religious/public purposes that it would revert to the federal government. The Bible College, because of a lack of students in Glennallen, moved into the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, to Palmer, AK, last decade. Now it wishes to be able to sell the property to be rid of the maintenance costs on the facilities.

The problem is that there apparently are no non-profits or few businesses in Glennallen that can afford to pay the officially appraised value for the properties. The parent of the Bible College 3 years ago asked the Federal Bureau of Land Management, BLM, administratively to start a process where it would decide the value of the properties and what it would have to pay the government to buy out the value of the “reversionary clause” so it could obtain clear title to sell the properties for whatever amount it could get. That appraisal was conducted mutually and came back late last year that the 210-acres, minus a sewage lagoon on the property that has no sales value, is worth \$210,000. The college says the college can’t afford that amount to buy out the value of the reversionary clause—because regardless of the appraisal, there is no entity in Glennallen that can afford to pay anywhere near that amount for the properties given the level of economic activity at present in the upper Copper River Valley in Alaska.

The college is arguing, correctly, that the Federal Government is wrong in setting the value of the reversionary clause as the full appraised value of the property for tax purposes. If willing sellers can’t be found who can afford to pay the “appraised” value of the property, then obviously the appraisal process is faulty. Secondly, the college is arguing that it has fully met the goal of Congress in 1959 that the land be used for the public purpose of operating

an educational institution. For more than 40 years the property was used by Alaska Bible College, the college only moving into a more urban part of Alaska when student levels proved insufficient to support the school. Clearly it makes no sense for the reversionary clause to remain in effect in perpetuity when land use patterns have changed. Third, the Federal Government does not need the land for any federal purpose. The land, not located in an urban setting in the small town of Glennallen, population, 491, is not suited for a park. The land is not needed for any Federal facility given its location in sparsely populated east central Alaska. Being inside the Glennallen city limits, the land can not be allowed to revert to a natural vegetative state under the town’s ordinances. It simply makes good sense for the land to be sold for economic purposes so it can generate more revenues for the town’s tax rolls. Given the real estate market in Glennallen, the Federal Government will lose far more money than it will make if it has to tear down the unwanted buildings in order to sell the property, or maintain them until another purpose for the structures can be found, at the current appraised tax values of the properties.

In each case, reversion of the lands to the Federal Government would result in Federal ownership of tracts unneeded for Federal purposes, but lands that would produce greater conveyance and management costs to the Federal treasury than are likely to be recovered through fair market sales. There is just no public policy purpose in the 21st century not to permit these very limited Federal reversion extinguishments, especially since the land did meet the purpose of the reversionary clause for more than four decades.

Passage of this act would cost the Federal Government nothing, but would aid the citizens of Glennallen by allowing the lands to be put to a better use, hopefully adding to the city’s economy and perhaps increasing its future tax revenues. I hope this bill will be able to advance and become law within the 114th Congress.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 249—HONORING THE RED LAND LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM OF LEWISBERRY, PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE TEAM IN THE 2015 LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 249

Whereas on Saturday, August 29, 2015, the Red Land Little League team won the United States championship at the Little League Baseball World Series, defeating a

versatile and dynamic team from Pearland, Texas with a walk-off hit in the bottom of the sixth inning to win 3-2;

Whereas on Sunday, August 30, 2015, the Red Land Little League team competed against the Kitasuna Little League team from Tokyo, Japan in the 69th Annual Little League World Series championship and set the record for the most runs scored in the first inning with 10 runs;

Whereas the Red Land Little League is the first York County team to win a national Little League championship and the first team from Pennsylvania to win the national Little League championship since 1990;

Whereas the Red Land Little League team is comprised of: Camden Walter, Braden Kolmansberger, Dylan Rodenhauer, Adam Cramer, Jaden Henline, Chayton Krauss, Kaden Peifer, Cole Wagner, Zack Sooy, Jake Cubbler, Jarrett Wisman, Bailey Wirt, and Ethan Phillips;

Whereas the Red Land Little League team is managed by Tom Peifer and coached by J.K. Kolmansberger and Bret Wagner, among others; and

Whereas the Red Land Little League team has brought tremendous excitement, pride, and honor to the city of Lewisberry, the county of York, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates and honors the Red Land Little League team and its loyal fans, affectionately known as the “Red Sea”, on the performance of the team at the 69th Little League World Series championship;

(2) recognizes and commends the hard work, dedication, determination, and commitment to excellence of the members, parents, families, coaches, and managers of the team; and

(3) recognizes and commends the people of Lewisberry, Pennsylvania and the surrounding area for their outstanding loyalty, support, and countless hours of volunteerism for the Red Land Little League team throughout the season.

SENATE RESOLUTION 250—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF RICHARD SCHULTZ SCHWEIKER, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr.